GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4165
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
AIR DEFENCE BASES
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the early 1980 it was decided to strengthen and create Air Defence Bases at Falodi, Deesa etc. for early detection of enemy planes;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why these Air Bases have not been developed so far;

(c) whether in view of changed scenario and Pakistan's aggressive postures, lack of Air Defence Bases is likely to jeopardise National Security; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work on developing Air Defence Bases inRajasthan and Gujarat is proposed to be started and the target date of its completion?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. In mid 1980s, there were plans to develop small air bases at Phalodi, Deesa and Mahajan.However, these airbases could not be taken up due to financial constraints.

(c) & (d): Government is aware of the security scenario at Western border. The case for development of airfield at Phalodi has been revived. The project is being planned to be completed by the year 2004.